

April 5, 2006

Dear Mr. Gruenberg,

I strongly urge you to oppose a Bank of WalMart. This is a company that has already gained a monopoly in many communities when it comes to groceries and many other products. Uninformed Americans are using WalMart as a one-stop shopping center without realizing the affects it has on their communities.

Grocery stores, hardware stores, clothing stores, etc. have closed down throughout many of America's towns and cities because of WalMart SuperCenters. Many City governments have spelled the demise of their own diverse economies by paying WalMart hefty sums of money to build their supercenters in their towns. Unfortunately, once built, the WalMart stores cause all other businesses around them to struggle or go out of business.

Allowing WalMart to provide banking services as well would only spread this problem to the banking industry. Community banks that have been around for decades will begin to struggle and close down. Those of us who know the facts and effects that WalMart can have on a community should not allow this to happen.

Also, WalMart is a very wealthy and powerful company. Allowing them to open up a bank that would most likely be utilized by millions of Americans would give them far too much control over the finances and debts of America's citizens.

WalMart already abuses the power they have by producing most of their products outside of the U.S., treating workers in other nations and in our own nation poorly and doing their best to prevent workers from unionizing, even breaking the law at times. They have also had many EPA violations and refuse to ensure the safety of their shoppers in their parking lots. This does not seem like a company that cares for its patrons or for the economy of our nation. We should not allow a company that only cares about its own bottom line to open a bank that would be a megagiant among financial institutions.

Please take this matter seriously and encourage all board members to attend the hearing on this very important matter. I appreciate your time and consideration of my views.

Sincerely,

Bethany DeVine